



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/720,713	11/24/2003	Maria Schlesener	16356.835 (DC-05443)	5410
27683	7590	12/01/2004	EXAMINER	
HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP 901 MAIN STREET, SUITE 3100 DALLAS, TX 75202			EDWARDS, ANTHONY Q	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2835	

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/720,713	Applicant(s) SCHLESENER ET AL.	
	Examiner Anthony Q. Edwards	Art Unit 2835	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 November 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 June 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6-1-2004</u> . | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |
|--|---|

DETAILED ACTION***Drawings***

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the “locking mechanism” must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from claims 10 and 21, respectively. No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled “Replacement Sheet” in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Art Unit: 2835

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 12, 17 and 22 are objected to because of the following informalities: the “docking receiver member” recited in independent claims 1 and 12 reads “docking member receiver” in the objected claims. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 10 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Specifically, there is no mention of a “locking mechanism” in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-6, 10-17 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,556,436 to Ohnishi. Referring to claims 1 and 12, Ohnishi discloses a vertical

Art Unit: 2835

docking apparatus and information handling system (see Figs. 2, 2A and 2B) comprising a docking receiver member (30) having a docking surface (55), a guide member (not numbered) extending vertically from an edge of the docking surface (i.e., upstanding wall at rear of docking receiver member (30)), a plurality of elongated locating members (not numbered) extending vertically from the docking surface (i.e., pins positioned on both sides of connector (57)), a first connector (57) extending vertically from the docking surface, a plurality of locking members (72) mounted on the docking surface, a docking member (31) including a chassis (32), a microprocessor inherently located in the chassis and a storage inherently coupled to the microprocessor, the chassis (32) having a mating surface (40) for engagement with the docking surface (55), a plurality of locating receivers (not shown) on the mating surface inherently receiving the locating members (i.e., pins positioned on both sides of connector (57)), a second connector (35) extending vertically from the mating surface (40), and a plurality of locking member receivers (36) mounted on the mating surface, whereby primary engagement of the docking member with the guide member (i.e., back of 31 abuts upstanding wall of 30) and secondary engagement of the of the locating members with the locating receivers (i.e., pins with corresponding holes) aligns the first and second connectors for seating and for engagement of the locking members and the locking member receivers.

Referring to claims 2 and 13, Ohnishi discloses a vertical docking apparatus and information handling system, wherein the docking receiver member (30) is a media slice (i.e., mobile docking station). See Fig. 2 and col. 8, lines 59-65.

Referring to claims 3 and 14, Ohnishi discloses a vertical docking apparatus and information handling system, wherein the docking member (31) is an information handling system. See Fig. 2 and col. 8, lines 11-19.

Referring to claims 4 and 15, Ohnishi discloses a vertical docking apparatus and information handling system, further comprising a plurality of ejection members (74) housed in the docking receiver member (30). See Figs. 9A-9L and the corresponding specification.

Referring to claims 5 and 16, Ohnishi discloses a vertical docking apparatus and information handling system, further comprising an ejection mechanism (73) located on the docking receiver member (30). See Figs. 9A-9L and the corresponding specification.

Referring to claims 6 and 17, Ohnishi discloses a vertical docking apparatus and information handling system, further comprising means (73) on the docking member receiver (*sic*) for disengaging the locking members (72) from the locking member receivers (36) and extending the ejection members (74) vertically from the docking surface (55).

Referring to claims 10 and 21, Ohnishi discloses a vertical docking apparatus and information handling system, further comprising a locking mechanism (73) on the docking receiver member. See Figs. 9A-9L and the corresponding specification.

Referring to claims 11 and 22, Ohnishi discloses a vertical docking apparatus and information handling system, further comprising means (73) on the docking member receiver (30) for locking the locking members (74) in the locking members receivers (36).

Referring to claims 23 and 24, the method steps are necessitated by the device structure as it is disclosed by Ohnishi.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 7, 8, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohnishi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,392,383 to Takimoto et al. Ohnishi discloses the invention as claimed, except for specifically teaching the docking receiver member including a cavity open to the docking surface, wherein a battery is provided in the cavity. Takimoto et al. disclose providing a docking station (see Figs. 7-11) for an information handling system with a cavity (180) housing a battery (103) therein.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide information handling system of Ohnishi with a cavity for housing a battery, as taught by Takimoto et al., since the device of Ohnishi would provide the system of Ohnishi with expanded battery life capabilities.

Claims 9 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohnishi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,311,397 Harshberger et al. Ohnishi discloses the invention as claimed, except for at least one of the locking members being oriented to function in a first direction and at least one of the locking members is oriented to function in a second direction opposite the first direction. Harshberger et al. disclose providing a computer docking station (190) with locking members (220), wherein at least one locking member is oriented to function

Art Unit: 2835

in a first direction (i.e., left to right) and at least one of the locking member is oriented to function in a second direction (i.e., right to left) opposite the first direction. See Figs. 1 and 11, as well as col. 7, lines 5-12.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide information handling system of Ohnishi with at least one of the locking members being oriented to function in a first direction and at least one of the locking members is oriented to function in a second direction opposite the first direction, as taught by Harshberger et al., since the device of Harshberger et al. would provide lateral support for the information handling system of Ohnishi in a simple manner.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: U.S. Patent No. 6,687,123 to Kitahara; U.S. Patent No. 6,570,758 to Maeda; U.S. Patent No. 6,426,872 to Sutton et al.; and U.S. Patent No. 5,684,673 to Shibasaki et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anthony Q. Edwards whose telephone number is 571-272-2042. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-3:00) First Friday Off.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn D. Feild can be reached on 571-272-2800, ext. 35. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2835

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

November 26, 2004

aqe


LYNN FEILD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800